

May 15, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Chris Domangue
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Ray Mayet
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treas. (entered at 5:40 p.m.)	Eli Miles, Jr
	Donald Schwab	Francis Richard
	Lance Authement	Scott LeBlanc

Absent: Jake Giardina

Also present: Jason Kennedy, Delta Coast; Joseph Savoie; Doug Cheramie; Stevie Smith  
Cyndi Guion, FOBL; John Lafargue, FOBL; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Josh Bordelon  
Robert Mire; Ed Harlan; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of April 17, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the accounts payable for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement to approve the finance report for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that the pumping summary was sent to the board members, and everything is operating back to normal since the repair of the pump.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we partnered with Lafourche Parish to spray the water hyacinths. Lafourche Parish will purchase the herbicide, and we will apply it. We sprayed from Hwy. 90 to Lockport, and we will also spray from the Valentine Bridge down to the Intracoastal.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. advised that if he recalls right he thinks we gave one permit for a recreational wharf on LA 1. He stated that there is another one going up on the south side of Napoleonville on LA 308, and Mr. Malbrough said that he will have to go and look at that.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we are looking at addressing our permit ordinance now. He stated that we went through very detailed review back in 2014. Historically, our permit ordinance didn't allow us to issue a permit to the mean water low water mark. The State Lands office and attorney general mapped the location of the mean low water mark, and in some instances it was 30ft. to 40ft. up the bank. We wanted the landowners to have access to the bayou and wanted them to use the bayou, but we weren't allowing them to build any structures even remotely near the bayou so we revised our ordinance the best we thought we could at the time. We revised the ordinance to allow landowners to build on the bayouside of the mean low water mark but no further than the intersection of the existing bank and the proposed surface elevation of 1000cfs.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he is working with T. Baker Smith on projecting those lines out. We have updated the model, and updated survey information so we can actually draw definitive lines where people can build, and can't build as it relates to what we believe is going to be affected by a dredge in the future.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. stated that he was just wondering why it was going up, and we didn't know anything about it. If that is the case, if someone sees someone building without a permit, just imagine what we will have all along the bayou.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. advised that he remembers in the minutes that if we give a landowner a permit, and for whatever reason they have to remove the structure, it will be removed at the owner's expense.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. advised that he feels the bayou should be checked a little more regularly to see what is going on because these things are popping up.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Assumption Parish was a new addition to the coastal zone when they redrew the coastal zone boundaries. A lot of the residents in Assumption Parish think they are not in a coastal zone, and they don't know that they have to get a coastal use permit for anything that they do in the bayou.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Ben to look into that, and report back to Mr. Eli, and to us at the full board meeting. We want to encourage people getting into the bayou but we don't want to encourage people putting structures in the way of work that has to be done.

Mr. Malbrough reported that Josh and he got with Wildlife & Fisheries regarding a boat that got loose in the rainfall, and is abandoned in the bayou. The numbers were given to Wildlife & Fisheries, but by law they can't release the owner's information to us. Wildlife & Fisheries runs the numbers and tries to contact the owner to let them know the boat is abandoned, and that they need to get it out of the bayou. If the owner doesn't get it out, then they consider it an abandoned vessel.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Dan and his team is moving forward on all of the analysis that we will be required for the two alternatives that they are looking at for the new pump station. Part of that project is that we are running the permit pipeline for the sediment trap dredging. We scheduled a meeting for the beginning of June to sit down with the Corps of Engineers for a pre-application meeting to see what they will and will not allow us to do.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked when will be the next deliverable, and Mr. Jason Kennedy answered that they are working on the stability analysis, and they will take that information and summarize it in a final report, which will probably be completed sometime in mid-July.

Mr. Malbrough reported that Royal Engineers is working on looking at where we need to locate a water control structure on the northern end of the bayou. He advised that we should have some preliminary report as early as two weeks.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the jurisdictional determination for the permitting of Phase 3 project was submitted to the Corps of Engineers for their review for the remaining dredging portions from Napoleonville to Thibodaux.

Commissioner Chris Domangue asked how many water control structures will there be, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we are hoping to have one more. Mr. Malbrough advised that the structure in Lockport could suffice for Thibodaux, Terrebonne, North Lafourche, and South Lafourche. We are hoping that if we could place a water control structure south of Assumption Parish Waterworks it could serve the purpose of shutting and creating an adequate supply for Assumption Parish, but also hold back enough water in the northern reaches of Belle Rose and Donaldsonville if we shut down for an extended period of time.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the scenario they are looking at is zero pump capacity. The bayou will be at the state it is today, and the entire pump station will shut down to nothing. The gate will be deployed to elevation infinity at the same exact time, and then the model will run until the bayou reaches some equilibrium state. We will know what the elevation of that structure needs to be, and also what the elevation of the water is going to be in Donaldsonville. The Board will have to determine if that water surface elevation is adequate for the risk that we are willing to take on if that scenario happens. Commissioner Chris Domangue asked the timeframe of the equilibrium state to be reached, and Mr. Malbrough answered a couple of days.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Mr. Joseph Savoie, who does most of the work for the Assumption Parish Waterworks, is here tonight, and stated that there is a dredging project on the books for Cancienne Canal, which is just south of the water treatment facility.

Mr. Savoie reported that they put forth a proposal for the Cancienne Canal project two years ago to see if there is funding out there, and it is still lingering out there because there hasn't been a funding source. Mr. Savoie stated that Bayou Lafourche is their only source of fresh water for Assumption Parish.

Mr. John Lafargue, Friends of Bayou Lafourche, advised they put in a \$60,000 grant request through the Tourist Investment Program for a total project cost of \$150,000 in cooperation with the Nicholls bayou side program. He feels optimistic that we will at least get a chunk of that.

Mr. Lafargue reported that they sent out twenty letters to whom he considers to be tier one prospects with regards to non-corporate contributions, and these would be people who have been involved with some of the activities along the bayou in the last several years. Tier two will be people who directly use the bayou to their benefit, and understand the value of the bayou to their businesses. He advised that between grants and corporate contributions, we can certainly offset our operational cost annually.

Mr. Lafargue advised that they have worked on the agenda for summit. They are targeting Congressman Garret Graves, and Lieutenant Billy Nungesser as speakers for the summit. Congressman Graves is the best person to talk about water issues in the state, and Lieutenant Nungesser does basically outreach for the recreational and tourist type things on the bayou. He stated that they would like to have the summit in the fall. They are trying to schedule the summit at the wellness center because it is a first class venue. They have also been doing a lot of outreach administration in the last thirty days.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they put together a draft agenda for the summit to see how it will lay out. He thinks we can have a morning session to discuss what we are doing from a reintroduction perspective, and the afternoon session will be focus on how to get people back in the bayou for recreation.

Mr. Malbrough reported that they are working on the transfer of the saltwater control structure from Lafourche Parish back to us. It will include the new structure, the existing receiving structure that remains in Company Canal, the purchase of a piece of property by Lafourche Parish on the LA 1 side of the structure that they will donate to us, and the landowner on Hwy 308 side will donate a portion of his property to us. We are working on putting together all those agreements.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he received a permit application today for the Dugas Canal project that has been talked about for a while. They will cap off the culverts that run under Hwy. 1 that drain the bayou into Dugas Canal so that there will be no more connection of Bayou Lafourche to Dugas Canal. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will review the permit application, and will present it to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Malbrough advised that the lingering land rights ownership questions going forward will still be there.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we have special guest Doug Chermie here tonight, who is with the attorney general's office. Mr. Doug Chermie stated that he recently started working with the attorney general's office, and represents the southeast areas. He advised that if their office can be of assistance to give him a call.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we do not have an executive session tonight.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the master plan and the annual plan have been approved by the House and Senate Natural Resources Committee last week, and we are in that plan. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked in what way are we in that plan, and Mr. Malbrough answered the entire reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project is there. We are in the plan, but we do not have any appropriation yet in the plan.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Hugh Caffery, Chairman

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Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

